

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
MCT-01 /058 W
-----270753Z 061268 /21

R 261356Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7155
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0509

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PFOR, PLO, KU
SUBJECT: EX-CHIEF OF PLO IN KUWAIT

1. AHMED AL-SHUQAIRY, HEAD OF THE PLO PRIOR TO THE 1967 WAR, ARRIVED IN KUWAIT JANUARY 24 FOR A BRIEF VISIT, REPORTEDLY AT THE INVITATION OF THE KUWAITI FONMIN. DURING HIS VISIT SHUQAIRY REPORTEDLY WILL SEE THE CROWN PRINCE AND SEVERAL KUWAITI CABINET MINISTERS. AL-SHUQAIRY APPARENTLY TALKED TO THE LOCAL PRESS AT LENGTH ON JANUARY 25; THE MAIN THREADS OF THESE INTERVIEWS, REPORTED IN FOLLOWING DAYS' EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

A. SHUQAIRY REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE WILL PLAY NO OFFICIAL ROLE IN ANY FUTURE PALESTINIAN STATE, AND THAT HE REJECTS ANY MIDDLE EAST TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT WHICH DOES NOT EMBACE "THE WHOLE PALESTINE". HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE SUPPORTS THE PLO "COMPLETELY".

B. THE PURPOSE OF SHUQAIRY'S VISIT TO KUWAIT IS "ACADEMIC", TO GATHER INFORMATION WITH WHICH TO WRITE A BOOK. SEVERAL PRESS STORIES ALSO NOTE HIS ADVOCACY OF POLICIAL CONFEDERATION
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OF ARAB COUNTRIES OF WHICH THE ARAB LEAGUE WOULD BE THE CENTRAL " SECRETARIAT.

C. SHUQAIRY REPORTEDLY EXPECTS THE CHANGE IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION TO RESULT IN NO CHANGE (READ IMPROVEMENT) IN U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY, ASSERTING THAT U.S. POLICY IS DETERMINED LARGELY BY THE SAME INTERESTS AS IN THE PAST.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE THE ATTENTION GIVEN BY THE KUWAITI PRESS TO SHUQAIRY'S VISIT AND THE "INVITATION" EXTENDED BY THE FONMIN, WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE KUWAITI HOSPITALITY SIGNALS ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE. IN AN ANNOUNCEMENT EARLIER IN THE WEEK, THE MFA WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT THE TRIPS WAS MOTIVATED SHUQAIRY'S LITERARY EFFORTS. GIVEN HIS PRESUMED PAST ASSOCIATIONS WITH GOK LEADERS, IT WOULD BE NORMAL FOR THEM TO ALLOW HIM ACCESS TO THEM.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, KU, PLO, (AL-SHUQAIRY, AHMED)
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